

February 17, 2009

WASHINGTON, DC - Today, U.S. Rep. Michael Arcuri (NY-24) announced that the Scipio Volunteer Fire Company (Cayuga County) and the Verona Fire Department (Oneida County) will receive funding under the 2009 federal Assistance to Firefighters Grants (AFG) program.

Today's announcement marks the fourth round of announcements for 2009 AFG funding and includes \$190,000 for Vehicle Acquisition for the Scipio Volunteer Fire Company and \$48,521 for Operations and Safety Improvements for the Verona Fire Department. To date, a total of 12 fire departments in Arcuri's district have been awarded funding through the 2009 AFG program.

"I am pleased that our local fire departments are getting the resources they need to fight fires and protect the members of their communities," **said Arcuri, who has organized several fire grant writing workshops with the Department of Homeland Security for local fire departments over the last three years.**

"The purchase of additional rescue vehicles and the ability to make improvements to equipment and facilities for our rescue workers is critical. Providing the funding necessary to allow our local fire fighters to be best equipped to do their job makes them safer and contributes greatly to the overall safety of our community."

Verona Fire Department Lieutenant Rob Urtz said, "We will use this much needed grant funding to purchase new jaws-of-life and equipment to clean our fire fighting gear more efficiently. This new equipment will make our operation more efficient and safer, and help us continue serving the community. I attended fire grant writing workshops hosted by Congressman Arcuri in recent years, which helped tremendously in our efforts to write a successful grant application. I encourage other fire departments across our region to attend these fire grant writing workshops in the future."

The Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) AFG program awards grants in two areas. The first is the Operations and Safety Program Area in which funding is used for training, equipment, wellness and fitness and health and safety modifications to the facilities. The second is the Vehicle Acquisition Program Area would allow departments to purchase various types of rescue vehicles including ambulances, hazardous materials clean up vehicles, tankers and pumper trucks. DHS will continue to make funding announcements in the coming weeks.

Below is a list of other fire departments that have also received AFG funding in 2009:

- Candor Fire District - Operations and Safety - \$45,315
- East Maine Fire Company - Operations and Safety - \$84,788
- City of Cortland Fire Department - Operations and Safety - \$41,716
- Morris Fire Department - Vehicle Acquisition - \$261,250
- Harpursville Fire Department - Operations and Safety - \$42,386
- Van Hornesville Fire Department - Operations and Safety - \$35,663
- Borden Hose Company - Operations and Safety - \$47,975
- Whitesboro Fire Department - Operations and Safety - \$77,520
- Bridgewater Fire Company - Operations and Safety - \$42,047
- Ilion Fire Department - Operations and Safety - \$40,375

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